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Living in the Treetops

BLENDING THE OUTSIDE WITH INDOORS
GIVES MOOSE LAKE HOME A SPECIAL FEEL

BY ANNE WANGMAN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOUG EDMUNDS

At the end of a quiet Moose Lake peninsula stands a house as majestic as the trees surrounding it. Soaring three stories into the sky, still, the structure is one with nature. It blends in as if it grew right along with the neighboring landscape.

Starting as a 1950s ranch, the homeowners had a vision for creating a home that would take advantage of the magnificence of the property. Sitting on nearly an acre, 65 feet from the water, through the tangle of seemingly endless buckthorn, they could see the possibilities. Exposing lake views, restoring terraced gardens from the original estate, living in the treetops — it was all there, waiting to be discovered and uncovered.



ABOVE: The dining room is surrounded by floor-to-ceiling windows creating the feel of being outdoors while enjoying a meal.

LEFT: An intimate conversation area containing six leather chairs is nestled in a corner.

After two years of living in the ranch and working the gardens, they tore down the house, saving the foundation. And thus began the process of building it back. The husband, a native of Seattle and a “frustrated architect” as the wife refers to him, knew what he wanted.

They worked with Dale Kolbeck and Alan Quick of Architectural Homes by Anders Inc. in Pewaukee, to achieve their dream home. “They just got it from the very beginning. Dale and Alan made it work. Everything was first class, right from the start. We didn’t even need to shop around,” says the wife. The result is a striking mix of Pacific Northwest on the outside and a transitional style interior touched with a bit of Arts and Crafts.

A stainless steel roof, timbered pergola with hanging wisteria, and floor-to-ceiling windows (every room has a lake and garden view), it’s a marriage of the indoors and out. A Bluestone sidewalk extends from the front walk into the first floor foyer and down to the lower level where the entry continues. Also housed on the lower level are a guest room and bath, recreation area and laundry. The front door is all glass so visitors can see through the house to the lake beyond.